REMARKS

Entry of the amendment filed November 10, 2003 and allowance of claims 5-9 are noted with appreciation.

The specification has been objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent bases for the claimed subject matter.

Applicants have amended the specification merely to make more uniform the component names applied to the described and illustrated components of the invention, and to align the claim terms with substantially the same descriptive terms contained in the specification. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments to the specification. The specification as now amended, including in response to the Examiner's comments and suggestions, is now submitted to provide ample antecedent and consistent bases for the terms contained in the claims.

Rejected claim 15 has been cancelled and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into claim 13, as amended herein.

Rejected claim 14 has been cancelled and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into claim 12, as amended herein.

Claims 12 and 16 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Krauter et al. '904. This rejection of the claims as now amended is respectfully traversed.

The independent claims 12 as amended now specifically recites "a hollow cylinder of resilient material having a distal end dimensioned to insert within the central bore of the body", and "a protruding ring integrally formed about the cylinder near the distal end thereof for deforming within the central bore of the body to form a fluid-tight seal therewith". In addition, the dependent claim 16 is further limited by the recitation of "an auxiliary sealing member for insertion within the aperture of the sealing member... a hollow cylinder of resilient material... having an outwardly protruding flange integrally formed about a distal end thereof... to form a fluid-tight seal within the aperture of the sealing member, and the protruding flange... being disposed to engage the distal end of the sealing member for retaining the auxiliary sealing member within the aperture of the sealing member".

These aspects of the claimed invention specifically include a portion of the sealing member that is dimensioned to insert *within* the central bore of the body, and that also includes a protruding ring integrally formed on the portion that inserts within the bore.

In addition, the dependent claim 16 is further limited to an auxiliary sealing member that fits through the aperture in the sealing member for securing therein by the recited protruding flange.

These aspects of the claimed invention are not disclosed by Krauter et al. '904 which is understood to rely upon a generally cylindrical inner surface 64 of the seal to fit onto or over stem 20 of fitting 14 (col. 3, lines 62-64). Even assuming *arguendo* that the tapered surface 72 is dimensioned to fit within a bore, such bore is not the central bore of the body and there is nevertheless a deficiency of this disclosure regarding the additional protruding ring, claimed by applicants, for deforming within the central bore.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the deficient disclosure of Krauter et al. '904 fails to establish even a *prima facie* basis for anticipation of claims 12 and 16 which are therefore submitted to be patentably distinguishable over the cited art.

Claims 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hunt et al. '646. This rejection of the claims as now amended is respectfully traversed.

As previously noted, claim 12 as amended is specifically limited to "a hollow cylinder of resilient material having a distal end dimensioned to

insert within the central bore of the body" and "a protruding ring integrally formed about the cylinder near the distal end thereof for deforming within the central bore of the body to form a fluid-tight seal therewith".

In addition, dependent claim 13 is further limited by the specific recitation of "an inwardly intruding rim integrally formed with the cylinder section and the flange and the hollow cylinder, said rim being dimensioned and positioned to engage the recessed groove about the periphery of the body in fluid-tight sealing engagement therein; and an intruding ring integrally formed on said intruding rim for deforming within the recessed groove to form a fluid-tight seal therein."

These aspects of the claimed invention are not disclosed in Hunt et al. '646 which is understood to taper end cap 12 into a central bore and form a seal via an outer bead 32 that engages an outer peripheral groove. Further, this reference does not disclose protruding and intruding rings for deforming into sealing engagements in a manner as claimed by applicants. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 12 and 13 as amended are now patentably distinguishable over the cited art.

Rejected claim 17 has been cancelled.

Reconsideration and allowance with claims 5-9 of the claims 12, 13 and 16 over the cited art (including the art cited but not applied) are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
PETER CALLAS, et al.

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By: A. C. Smith

Albert C. Smith, Reg. No. 20,355
Fenwick & West LLP
801 California Street
Mountain View, CA 94041
Telephone (650) 335-7296
Fax (650) 938-5200